

**Minutes of the Board of Regents
of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences**

**Meeting No. 184
July 30, 2013**

The Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences met on July 30, 2013, at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, Maryland. The meeting date and agenda items were published in the Federal Register and each Regent was duly notified prior to the meeting. The Board Executive Secretary, Jeffrey L. Longacre, M.D., was present during the meeting along with the Designated Federal Officer, Mrs. S. Leeann Ori. The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Members and advisors listed below were in attendance:

Board Members

Ronald R. Blanck, D.O., Chair
Otis W. Brawley, M.D., Member
Sheila P. Burke, M.P.A., Member
Haile T. Debas, M.D., Member (participated telephonically)
GEN Ronald H. Griffith, USA (Ret), Member
Kenneth P. Moritsugu, M.D., Member
Gail R. Wilensky, Ph.D., Member
Jonathan Woodson, M.D., Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
Charles L. Rice, M.D., President, USU
MG M. Ted Wong, DC, USA, Representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Army
RADM Alton L. Stocks, MC, USN, Representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Navy
Brig Gen James J. Carroll, USAF, BSC, Representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Air Force
RADM Boris D. Lushniak, USPHS, Acting Surgeon General of the United States

Advisors to the Board

John E. McManigle, M.D., Acting Dean, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, USU
Ada Sue Hinshaw, Ph.D., R.N., Dean, Graduate School of Nursing, USU
Patrick D. Sculley, D.D.S., M.A., Executive Dean, Postgraduate Dental College, USU
Col L. Andrew Huff, USAF, MC, Director, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, USU
Maj Gen Gerard A. Caron, USAF, DC, Commander, 79th Medical Wing
COL Michael R. Nelson, MC, USA, Representing the Commander, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
Joshua Girton, J.D., Legal Advisor to the Board of Regents, USU

OPENING COMMENTS

In his opening comments, Dr. Blanck welcomed MG Ted Wong, the new Commanding General of the Northern Regional Medical Command. Also present for the meeting were Mr. Martin Lancaster and Dr. Elizabeth Isler, the USU and Medical Education and Training

Campus affiliation consultants. The following points were also included in Dr. Blanck's opening remarks:

- The October Board of Regents meeting will be held as an offsite in conjunction with the Bushmaster/FTX101 exercises. The Board meeting will take place on the morning of October 23, 2013 in Hershey, Pennsylvania, followed by an observation of the student field exercises at Fort Indiantown Gap on the afternoon of October 23 and the morning of October 24.
- USU received ten-year institutional re-accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education following the recent self-study process. Two items were addressed during the study: the President's inability to hire due to the civilian hiring freeze and the need for a new centralized student records information system. Dr. Blanck reported that thanks to the support of Dr. Woodson, the hiring authority was recently delegated to Dr. Rice, alleviating the first concern.
- Following the Military Health System restructure in fiscal year 2014, the University will be placed under the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.
- A closed session was scheduled to occur following the open meeting to discuss personnel actions, the annual assessment of the University President and the brigade environment survey.
- Mrs. Jennifer Nuetzi James has been appointed as the new Alternate Designated Federal Officer for the Board of Regents. Dr. Blanck introduced Mrs. Nuetzi James to members of the Board.

MATTERS OF GENERAL CONSENT

Dr. Blanck presented the matters of general consent listed below.

- The meeting dates for the next two years
- Minutes of the May 17, 2013 Board of Regents meeting
- Electronic approval by the Board of the following action:
 - The faculty appointment of Arthur L. Kellermann, M.D., M.P.H. to the rank of Professor with tenure in the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice vote: Approved the matters of general consent as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In his report to the Board, Dr. Rice summarized the points below.

- After receiving a list of three highly qualified candidates from the search committee, Dr. Rice selected Dr. Kellermann as the next Dean of the School of Medicine. Dr. Rice thanked the University, including Dr. Hinshaw and members of the committee, for their full participation in the search process.

- As mentioned in the opening comments, the Deputy Secretary of Defense has made the decision to place the University under the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.
- The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness has delegated hiring authority and travel approval to the President of USU. One concern remains in that the hiring authority is restricted to the allotted full-time equivalents (FTE) for the organization. Because the FTE established for USU does not account for additional personnel in support of new missions, such as those mandated by Congress, the University is currently in excess of the FTE ceiling.
- Sequestration continues to impact the University with a \$30 million budget reduction. This is primarily absorbed through funding cuts to research and sustainment and modernization accounts. If the cuts continue into the FY14 fiscal year, current operations will be unsustainable.
- Mandatory furloughs for civilian and contracted employees began in early July. The reduction in workforce has resulted in a significant impact on operations and is being further exacerbated as overtime is prohibited.
- The Postgraduate Dental College conferred degrees at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School, the Air Force Postgraduate School at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, and the Army Postgraduate Dental School at Fort Bragg, Fort Hood and Schofield Barracks.
- The Brain Tissue Repository for Traumatic Brain Injury Research Project, led by Daniel Perl, M.D., is attempting to better understand the anatomic consequences of exposure to blast injuries. Dr. Rice thanked Dr. Woodson for his efforts in promoting the program.

BOARD ACTIONS

Degree Granting - Graduate Education

Dr. McManigle presented for certification ten candidates to receive graduate degrees in the biomedical sciences and public health. Four candidates were presented to receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, one candidate was presented for the Doctor of Public Health degree and five candidates were presented for the degree of Master of Science in Public Health.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice vote: Concurred with the recommendations as presented by Dr. McManigle and recommended that the President confer the degrees as stated.

Faculty Appointments and Promotions – School of Medicine

Dr. McManigle presented the recommendations made by the School of Medicine Committee on Appointments, Promotion and Tenure at a meeting held on June 13, 2013. Thirty-two individuals were recommended for faculty appointments or promotions.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice vote: Concurred with the recommendations as presented by Dr. McManigle and recommended that the President implement the actions.

Awards and Honors

Dr. McManigle presented the request that Ms. Hermelinda Licon receive the USU Exceptional Service Medal. As the Program Administration Specialist in San Antonio, Ms. Licon supported thousands of medical students on clerkship rotations to Wilford Hall Medical Center and at Brooke Army Medical Center. After 26 years of exceptional service to the University, Ms. Licon will retire from federal service.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice vote: Approved the nomination for Ms. Licon as presented by Dr. McManigle.

DOD CIVILIAN HIRING FREEZE

Following the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) accreditation visit, concern was raised regarding the Department of Defense's civilian hiring freeze. In its *Characteristics of Excellence*, MSCHE requires that the Chief Executive Officer have authority and the resources to adequately staff the institution to fulfill its mission. As the hiring freeze restricted Dr. Rice's ability to recruit faculty and staff members, the policy had the potential to result in an adverse accreditation decision. On behalf of members of the Board, Dr. Blanck sent a letter to the Secretary of Defense describing the situation and possible consequences. Though the initial concern was satisfied with the delegated hiring authority previously discussed, the action was presented in an open forum and no comments were made.

REPORT ON THE UNIVERSITY MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

As was discussed during the Spring Board of Regents Meeting, the University is in the process of revising the University Mission, Vision and Values. Dr. Rice presented the proposed language for the Board's recommendation. Dr. Johns complimented the University for creating a clear statement with an end goal.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice vote: Approved of the new University Mission, Vision and Values as presented by Dr. Rice.

BOARD PREPARATORY MEETINGS

Academics

Dr. Johns, Chair of the Academics Working Group, led a discussion on the potential USU and Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) affiliation. Responding to a request from the METC Board of Governors, the University is exploring the possibility of granting undergraduate degrees to several METC programs. The report, created by consultants Mr. Martin Lancaster and Dr. Elizabeth Isler, was presented to the Board. The items below were included in this discussion.

- The academics group saw this affiliation as a way to maintain and strengthen 17 military-based allied health programs offered at METC. The conversion would be done progressively until the faculty and programs were fully accredited. Eventually the group envisioned establishing a School of Allied Health Sciences at USU.

- As oversight of the program was not addressed in the Lancaster and Isler report, the academics group requested further exploration into the structure of the relationship, as the affiliation would require substantial involvement by the University.
- Though the University's current authority to grant undergraduate degree is under review, language in the Senate's version of the National Defense Authorization Action would expand the University's legal authority to grant such degrees.
- Dr. Wilensky noted that this relationship recognizes the direction of national healthcare in terms of team training and the integration of programs. RADM Stocks, representing the Navy Surgeon General, added that this measure would improve the quality of care for the military healthcare system and that it aligns well within the mission and vision of the University.
- One concern addressed by the Board is the geographic distance from the University. This concern is somewhat alleviated by the USU branch campus in San Antonio, which is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.
- Dr. Blanck noted that this has the potential to significantly affect the character of the University. The Faculty Senate has appointed a committee to study the impact.
- Adding to the benefits of the proposal, Dr. Woodson commented that this affiliation would strengthen the position of the University within the military healthcare system and improve credentials for METC active duty service member students as they transfer their skills to civilian communities. RADM Stocks mentioned this would also standardize credentials across the services.
- Dr. Lancaster advised the Board that one obstacle that requires further investigation is the general education credits required of an undergraduate degree. Currently, credits offered at METC focus on technical skills. Over time, Dr. Lancaster recommends that these credits be offered at a level where they are transferable to a Bachelor's degree. As the report addresses, this could be done through several venues, including distance learning, a partnership with an established undergraduate institution, or internally by building faculty.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice vote: Concurred with the proposal to explore the USU and METC affiliation and asked that Dr. Woodson establish a working group to address the issues discussed.

In addition to the discussion on the METC affiliation, Dr. Johns provided the following points from the preparatory meeting.

- Dr. McManigle reported that curriculum reform continues to progress satisfactorily. The first class fully integrated into the program is now halfway through their clerkship rotations.
- The Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program (EMDP2) is envisioned to increase matriculation from the armed services and minority groups. The 24-month post-bachelorate program will begin with its first class in July 2014.
- Dr. Hinshaw notified the Board that the Doctor of Nursing Practice program self-accreditation study is due August 2013. A positive external preparatory review showed that the program is in good standing and should perform well next month.

- The Women's Health Nurse Practitioner track within the Family Nurse Practitioner program is expected to begin in May 2014.
- The 20th Anniversary celebration for the Graduate School of Nursing and the renaming of the school in honor of Senator Daniel K. Inouye, is tentatively scheduled for September 17, 2013.
- In his report from the Faculty Senate, LTC Woodson provided results from the recent election, including the new President-Elect, Simon Auster, M.D., J.D. In addition, LTC Woodson reiterated the negative effects of sequestration and travel restrictions on operations and morale.
- The Office of Research reported on the significant impact of sequestration and the \$20 million budget cut to research programs.
- In an update on the Postgraduate Dental College, Dr. Sculley notified the Board that the Keesler Air Force Base Comprehensive Dentistry program has matriculated its first class.
- At the request of Maj Gen Gerard Caron, USAF, DC, Dr. Sculley proposed an expansion of the Air Force Postgraduate Dental School to include the endodontic programs at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and Keesler Air Force Base.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice vote: Concurred with the recommendations as presented by Dr. Sculley and recommended that the President establish the additional programs.

Finance and Administration

GEN Griffith, Acting Chair of the Finance and Administration Working Group, summarized items of discussion at the working group. This included the following remarks.

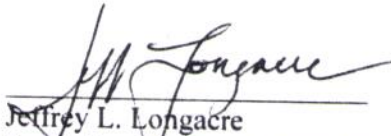
- The Vice President for Finance and Administration provided an update on several items being considered under the Program Objective Memorandum (POM) 2015, including e-learning, the Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program and the Global Health Measures of Effectiveness.
- Mr. Rice reported that the University received \$2 million for AFRRI cobalt refueling. In addition, phase two of the USU Simulation Center renovation has received funding, along with the renovation of the cafeteria, mailroom and duplicating center. To support the relocation of the Southern Region Office \$500,000 was allocated for renovation and out-fitting costs. Dr. Sculley added that this funding is sufficient to support the transition.
- Beyond fiscal year 2013, Mr. Rice notified the Board that significant budget cuts are expected. In a letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee, Secretary Hagel provided a contingency plan for FY 2014 should the approximately \$52 billion cut be realized. These cuts would have a significant impact on future operations at USU. Dr. Rice, however, has insured the Board that the core mission will be accomplished.
- GEN Griffith attributed the strength of the University during these austere times to the leadership of the organization. Dr. Wilensky added that although the impact on several programs was significant, to include research, the current standing of the University is surprisingly strong.
- In supporting the military mission of the University, GEN Griffith suggested that a combat officer be assigned to the Brigade and proposed that a transitional wounded warrior would be advantageous as a mentor to the students.

- Following a directive from the Secretary of Defense, the Brigade's mandatory sexual harassment training for active duty service members is nearly complete. GEN Griffith emphasized the need to stress a zero tolerance policy for the University.
- The General Counsel reported that the court martial of MAJ Hasan will begin on September 6. Twelve members of the University have been requested to testify for the court martial.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business on the agenda, Dr. Blanck adjourned the open portion of the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

SUBMITTED:



Jeffrey L. Longacre
Executive Secretary, Board of Regents

APPROVED:



Ronald R. Blanck
Chair, Board of Regents

Prepared by S. Leeann Ori